

# FIREMED FACT SHEET



## FIREMED IS AN OFFICIAL PROGRAM OF THE HUNTINGTON BEACH FIRE DEPARTMENT

### THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT YOUR FIREMED MEMBERSHIP

FireMed will bill your current health insurance for the emergency medical services provided to you. If you don't have health insurance, your FireMed membership will provide a 20% discount.

The emergency medical incident must occur within the City of Huntington Beach. However, emergency transportation is allowable to hospitals **outside** of the city borders.

The Huntington Beach Fire Department charges fees for emergency medical assessment, even when the patient is not transported. FireMed will protect you from any unpaid balance if your insurance does **not** cover the charges.

FireMed will not cover ambulance transportation to a doctor's office, to your home, as a transfer between hospitals, provided by an emergency air service, or provided by a private ambulance service not requested through 9-1-1.

### FIREMED MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

- No out-of-pocket cost (if covered by insurance at the time of the emergency incident) for paramedic assessment, treatment, and emergency ambulance transportation provided by the Huntington Beach Fire Department
- Coverage for every member in a FireMed household, anywhere in the City of Huntington Beach
- Umbrella coverage for your guests who have an emergency medical incident at your residence
- Free American Heart Association CPR classes
- The Medical Information Program – a vital information resource used by paramedics in an emergency

*FireMed membership is just \$5 per month if placed on a Municipal Services Statement. If paid separately, or for those that do not receive a Municipal Services Statement, it's just an annual payment of \$60. (A low income rate of \$30 is available to those that qualify.)*

*The City accepts Medi-Cal payments as 'payment in full' (if there is no share of cost), and FireMed membership is not necessary. However, those covered by Medi-Cal may still wish to join FireMed due to coverage for others in their household or for FireMed Program benefits.*



**For additional information,  
contact the FireMed Program  
at (714) 374-1598**

# What is "FireMed"?

***FireMed, an Official Program of the Huntington Beach Fire Department, is a voluntary membership for paramedic services and emergency ambulance transportation***



The Huntington Beach Fire Department instituted its FireMed Paramedic Ambulance Membership Program in June of 1990 to improve medical services to the community including faster response times for medical emergencies. At the time the program began, paramedic responses were achieved within five minutes for only 50% of all medical aid incidents.

The initial goal was to use FireMed revenues to hire additional personnel so that a paramedic response time of five minutes could be achieved for 80% of the medical incidents. This five minute response standard was developed to comply with the City's Growth Management Committee's recommendation made to the City Council during the late 1980's. The five minute response goal is based on clinical studies that show significant reductions in mortality if specific advanced life support treatments are administered within this time period.

To meet this goal, the Fire Department incorporated changes within the City's paramedic and ambulance systems. Since 1990, FireMed has subsidized vital emergency medical services within the City such as:

- Establishing a paramedic unit in each of the City's eight fire stations
- Funding additional Paramedic positions
- Paying for a City-operated ambulance system that includes 24 full-time Ambulance Operators and four fire department-dedicated ambulance units
- Subsidizing an Emergency Medical Services Coordinator position to ensure proper paramedic procedures and training
- Equipping emergency medical response personnel with state-of-the-art training and supplies
- Providing free CPR classes to FireMed member households and businesses

To begin this program, a City Ordinance was passed to authorize specific user fees for Advanced Life Support (ALS), Basic Life Support (BLS) and voluntary FireMed membership services. These fees enable the highest quality of emergency medical care to respond as quickly as possible when you dial 9-1-1.